

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

The Honourable Christine Elliott

Deputy Premier of Ontario and Minister of Health

As a mother, lawyer, businesswoman, and entrepreneur, Christine Elliott knows how to bring people together. She knows the importance of balancing a family budget and how to manage a successful business.

Christine graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Laws degree. She then built a successful career in business and law, working first as an auditor at one of Canada's largest banks. Christine later co-founded a law firm with her late husband Jim Flaherty, where she specialized in real estate, corporate law, and estate law. Christine has worked tirelessly to help businesses all across the province expand and thrive.

Christine also used her business and legal expertise to pursue her commitment to public service. Her pro bono legal work for charitable organizations gained her the recognition as a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, the highest award with Rotary. As well, Christine is a co-founder of the Abilities Centre in Whitby, a facility built with the vision of celebrating all people, regardless of ability. The centre has become a hub of its community, hosting various Parapan Am Games events in 2015.

In 2006, Christine was elected MPP. She has won five elections, and for nine years has served the people of Ontario at Queen's Park, including six years as Deputy Leader of the PC Party.

In 2016, Christine became Ontario's Patient Ombudsman, where she fought for better access to health care for all.

She currently serves as the Deputy Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health and is the MPP for Newmarket-Aurora.

Christine has triplet sons, John, Galen and Quinn.

Alison Blair

Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Services Division, and Executive Lead, Public Health Modernization, Ministry of Health

Alison Blair is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Emergency Health Services (EHS) Division, and Executive Lead, Public Health Modernization, in the Ministry of Health. The EHS division provides and regulates services to all Ontarians ranging from emergency health services in land and air ambulances, to advocacy and rights advice services to patients in psychiatric facilities across the province.

Alison was previously the Executive Director of the Emergency Health Services Office, Hospitals and Emergency Services Division in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Prior to this role, Alison served as the acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Direct Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care where she provided leadership and oversight on emergency health services in land and air ambulances, funding programs for assistive devices and medical supplies to Ontario residents with long term physical disabilities, programs under the OHIP program, advocacy and rights advice services to patients in psychiatric facilities across the province.

Alison brings with her a wealth of experience in strategy development, stakeholder management, and implementation, through roles within government and in the health sector. Alison has a Master of Business Administration, McMaster University, specialization in Health Services Management and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (Honours), McMaster University.

Professor Natasha Crowcroft

Dalla Lana School of Public Health, ICS and LMP, University of Toronto

Dr. Crowcroft is a public health medical practitioner with more than 25 years' experience in public health at local, national and global levels, and two decades of senior management and leadership experience in infectious disease surveillance, prevention, control and outbreak response. She has published over 250 peer-reviewed scientific papers including in Lancet, BMJ, NEJM, with an h-factor of 47 (Google scholar). She is an Associate Editor for Eurosurveillance and on the International Advisory Board of Lancet Infectious Diseases. With a strong track record of research funding, she reviews for a variety of national and global funding bodies. Her research aims to maximize the health benefits of immunization.

Dr. Crowcroft's expert role includes as current co-chair of the Canadian Association for Immunization Research, Evaluation and Education (CAIRE), and member of the Canadian Immunization Research Network. Globally, she is an expert for PAHO, SEARO and WHO and also serves on the Independent Review Committee of Gavi.

Dr. Crowcroft trained in medicine and public health at the Universities of Cambridge and London, UK, and in field epidemiology in the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) in Belgium. From 1997-2007 Dr. Crowcroft was a medical consultant in the Immunisation Department at the national centre for England. In 2007 she was recruited to be one of the founding leadership group at Public Health Ontario, Canada, helping to rebuild the public health system post-SARS. She became Director of Surveillance and Epidemiology in 2008, Chief of Infectious Disease in 2012, Chief of Applied Immunization Research and Evaluation in 2015, and Chief Science Officer in 2019. In 2019, Dr. Crowcroft launched the Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases at the University of Toronto as its inaugural Director.

Dr. Peter Donnelly

President and CEO, Public Health Ontario

Dr. Donnelly is President and CEO of Public Health Ontario (PHO), which provides evidence for policy formulation and undertakes public health capacity building, as well as provides integrated public health laboratory and surveillance systems. Prior to joining PHO, Dr. Donnelly was the Professor of Public Health

Medicine at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where he established and led public health medicine research and teaching. From 2004 to 2008 he was the Deputy Chief Medical Officer to the Scottish Government, providing senior leadership and coordination at a national level. As the Director of Public Health in two jurisdictions, he was responsible for the delivery of local public health services and programs.

Dr. Robert Kyle

Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, Durham Region

Dr. Kyle has been the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health for the Regional Municipality of Durham since 1991. He is an active member of many provincial and regional health organizations. For example, he is currently Past President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, having assumed the presidency from June 2018 to June 2019. He is also Chair of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee; Past Chair of the Port Hope Community Health Centre; Past Chair of the Public Health Ontario Board of Directors and Past Chair of its Governance Committee. Dr. Kyle is a former Medical Officer of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit and Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of East York Health Unit. He is also an Adjunct Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto.

Jamie McGarvey

President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Jamie was acclaimed President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on August 22, 2018 at the Association's 2018 conference in Ottawa. He has served on municipal councils for more than 30 years, including the last nine as the Mayor of Parry Sound. Jamie has been on the AMO board for nine years. The AMO President serves as the voice of a 43-member Board made up of elected officials and senior municipal staff from across Ontario. The AMO Board represents a cross-section of Ontario's diverse municipalities, including rural, northern and urban communities from all regions of the province.

Carmen McGregor

President, alPHa

Carmen is a Municipal Councillor with Chatham-Kent. She joined the alPHa Board in June 2015 as the South West region's Boards of Health Representative and became alPHa Vice President in June 2016. She served as alPHa President from June 2017 to June 2018 and Past President from June 2018 to June 2019.

Prior to municipal council, Carmen was a publicly elected School Board Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board for 11 years. She served as Chairperson for 3 years and Vice Chair for 2 years. Her responsibilities included many different committees including representing her board provincially as Director to the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) and Vice President of the Western Region group of Public School Boards.

Along with her political career Carmen is the Office Manager of a law firm and has continued to be an active volunteer within her community. She is the Past President and a current Director of the Wallaceburg and District Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Chatham-Kent Not-for-Profit Network, a member of the Age Friendly Committee, a Toastmaster and she has chaired the Wallaceburg, United Way of Chatham-Kent Campaigns, 1999, 2009 & 2013.

Jim Pine

Advisor on Public Health and Emergency Services

Jim is currently the Chief Administrative Officer (A) of the County of Hastings, having been in the municipal affairs business for nearly 39 years. He has worked as a chief administrative officer in small municipalities, as a city administrator and, for the past seventeen years, has been leading the administration of the County of Hastings. Jim started his career with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and served in various positions in his 9 years with the Ministry including as Regional Director for Eastern Ontario.

Jim is also co-chairing the ONWARD Initiative which includes major municipal staff organizations in Ontario dedicated to promoting local government as a career and supporting succession planning in municipalities across the province. He has also taken an active role in municipal advocacy through his work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, where he served in a number of roles including Secretary-Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors.

Jim is a past president of the Ontario Municipal Administrators' Association. He has participated in many municipal reform projects, including the *Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Services Delivery Review*. Along with his two panel partners, he authored a wide-ranging review of Ontario's water and waste water sector entitled: *Watertight: A Case for Change*.

Dr. Michael Rieder

CIHR-GSK Chair in Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology University of Western Ontario

Dr. Rieder obtained his MD at the University of Saskatchewan in 1980 and his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in 1992. His paediatric resident training was at the Children's Hospital of Michigan and he completed fellowships in Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology and Paediatric Emergency Medicine at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Dr. Rieder is a Professor with the Department of Paediatrics, Physiology and Pharmacology and Medicine at Western University and a Scientist at the Robarts Research Institute. He is the Past President of the Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics and is a member of the Drug Therapy Committee of the Canadian Paediatric Society and has served as a consultant to Health Canada, the NIH, the MRC and the Canadian College of Academies. Dr. Rieder's research focuses on drug safety and adverse drug reactions as well as on optimal therapeutics in children. This includes studying genetic variations and their impact on drug efficacy and safety and mechanistic studies of drug hypersensitivity. He is the author of the CPS Statement on Medical Marijuana in Children and has spoken on this topic in many venues.

Dr. Rieder has been the recipient of many awards including the 1994 and 1996 Young Investigator of the Year for the Canadian and American Societies of Clinical Pharmacology, the Senior Investigator Award of the Canadian Society of Clinical Pharmacology and the Academic Leadership Award in Clinical Investigation from the Paediatric Chairs of Canada as well as Sumner Yaffe Lifetime Achievement Award

for Pediatric Pharmacotherapy. Other distinguished awards include the Harvard Macy Scholar Award, the Douglas Bocking Award, several Teacher of the Year Awards, Fellowships from the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and Edinburgh and a Distinguished University Professor award at Western. He holds the CIHR-GSK Chair in Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology, the only endowed Chair in Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology in Canada.

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis

Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Eastern Ontario Health Unit & COMOH Section Chair

Dr. Roumeliotis is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit since 2017. He received his medical degree in 1983 at McGill University and trained as a pediatrician at the Montreal Children's Hospital. He was Director of Continuing Medical Education in the Department of Pediatrics and founding Director of Multiformat Health Communications at McGill. Dr. Paul created and directed the Montreal Children's Hospital Asthma Centre and Pediatric Consultation Centre in 1990. He also holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where he is now an Associate Faculty member. In May 2013, he completed the Advanced Management Diploma program at the Harvard Business School. In February 2018, he received the Canadian Certified Physician Executive (CCPE) credential designation by the Canadian Society of Physician Leaders.

Trudy Sachowski

Vice Chair, Northwestern Board of Health & Boards of Health Section Chair, alPHA

Trudy is a Provincial Appointee, is the Vice Chair of the Northwestern Board of Health and Chair of the Board's Executive Committee. Trudy is a retired corporate leadership consultant. Trudy's extensive community and volunteer involvement includes serving as: Chair of the Ontario Parent Council, Chair of the Northwestern Healthy Living Partnership, Chair of the Dryden Public Library Board, Vice-Chair of the Northwestern Early Years Steering Committee, Board member of Points North Family Health Team and numerous provincial, regional and local initiatives. She is also currently a member of the alPHA Board of Directors.

Dr. Jackie Schleifer Taylor

President, Children's Hospital

Executive Vice President, Clinical Programs

London Health Sciences Centre

With over 20 years' experience in local to international health sector leadership, Dr. Jackie Schleifer Taylor has been recognized for her demonstrated successes in systems development and strategy implementation. Jackie promotes and advances leadership/administrative best practices in operations management to support innovation in health sector business and practice management. Equally important to her is the call to volunteerism. She has served on a number of committees, boards, and think tanks. Her scope of service includes appointments on Boards of health care service provider agencies, advisory committees of government (regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally), regional agencies, international think tanks, regulatory bodies (provincially, nationally), and appointments at academic institutions. Currently, provincially Dr. Schleifer Taylor holds several appointments, including serving as Chair of the Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health.

Nationally, she serves on the Board of Children’s Healthcare Canada. Her academic credentials include Baccalaureate degrees in Science, and Health Sciences from McMaster University, where she graduated from Physical Therapy. Jackie also holds two graduate degrees, a Master of Science and a PhD, from the University of Toronto.

Professor Robert Schwartz

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Executive Director, Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, University of Toronto

Robert Schwartz is Executive Director of the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, Professor at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Dr. Schwartz is Director of the U of T Collaborative Specialization in Public Health Policy. At OTRU, Dr. Schwartz directs research, evaluation, knowledge exchange and capacity building programs. His research interests include (1) Tobacco Control Policy, (2) e-cigarettes (3) Strategy design and evaluation, (3) Evaluation of Tobacco Control Programs and Policies, (4) Public Health Policy (5) Accountability (6) The Politics and Quality of Evaluation, (7) Performance Measurement and Performance Auditing, He has published widely about tobacco control, accountability, public health policy, policy change, program evaluation and government – third sector relations.

Janice Sheehy

Commissioner, Human Services

The Regional Municipality of Peel

Janice joined the Region of Peel in March 2016 as Commissioner, Human Services. In this role she provides strategic leadership to programs and services in the areas of housing and homelessness, early learning and childcare, as well as social assistance and employment support. Janice shares accountability with the executive leadership team for successfully implementing Peel’s strategy to achieve Regional Council’s long-term vision.

Over the course of her 30-year career, Janice has had the opportunity to work in various leadership roles within the public sector. Before joining the Region of Peel, she was the General Manager of Finance and Treasurer with the City of Guelph and employed with Halton Region, the City of Hamilton, the Ministry of the Attorney General, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - all in senior management roles.

Throughout her career Janice has held positions that provide connections between her strong financial background and her desire to make an impact on the lives of residents. Janice’s focus is on delivering the best possible customer service that will have a positive effect on clients and tenants.

Janice has a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) and has achieved certified designations with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE), Institute of Internal Auditors (CIA), and Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA).

Cynthia St. John

CEO, Southwestern Public Health

Cynthia is the CEO of Southwestern Public Health, formed in 2018 by the merger of the former Oxford County Public Health and Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health. Prior to the merger, Cynthia presided as the

Executive Director of Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health for 18 years. Cynthia now leads an organization of approximately 200 employees responsible for providing public health programming to a population of over 200,000 in southwestern Ontario. Cynthia began her career in the charitable sector having had the privilege of working with exceptional organizations such as the YWCA, the Anne Johnston Community Health Centre, and Dying with Dignity Canada. She holds a Masters of Business Administration with a specialization in Leadership and is currently a member of alPha's Board of Directors.

Monika Turner

Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Monika is the Director of Policy for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). She joined AMO in 2010 after 25 years with the Ontario Government as both a public servant and a political assistant. Monika worked at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care twice. From 1998 to 2003, she led a series of physician compensation negotiations on behalf of the province. In 2006, Monika returned to the MOHLTC as the Director of Public Health Standards and oversaw the development of the 2008 Ontario Public Health Standards. She has a Masters of Law degree (ADR) from Osgoode Law School and received her Masters of Public Health from the University of Waterloo in 2011.

Dr. David Williams

Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario Ministry of Health

Dr. Williams is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province of Ontario and was appointed on February 16, 2016. Dr. Williams assumed the Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health position on July 1, 2015 having been in the position of Medical Officer of Health for the Thunder Bay District Board of Health from October 2011 to June 30, 2015. Prior to that, Dr. Williams had been at the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care from 2005 to 2011 as the Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Branch Director. During this time he was also the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario from November 2007 to June of 2009. Before working at the province Dr. Williams was the Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit from 1991 to 2005.